

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 29, 2000 LB 1107

couple years, has been exacerbated by the fact that property values were not properly done by the counties for a long, long time. And it's only been recently that we've gotten a handle on that and all around the state the pressure has been put on to bring valuations to where they should be, and that phenomenon, it would seem to me, has caused, not just what might be a normal economic increase in the valuations, but an exaggerated increase in the valuations due to our institutional changes with respect to forcing a correct calculation and a uniform calculation of those valuations. So in short, what I'm suggesting is maybe we ought to wait a little bit and see how the valuation thing plays out a little bit more; see what it looks like once we're well past this exaggerated period of increasing valuations, and make a judgment, if we're going to make such a big judgment as this one at this point in time, wait and see whether the valuation problem is as significant as it might seem right now. One suggestion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Raikes. And this is your third time, Senator.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, I wanted to respond quickly to Senator Wickersham's reaction to my comment about this being a nonequalized tax relief effort. And I would...I would hold onto my view that it is, and I would also acknowledge his...his argument that any levy reduction, reduction in the levy lid is nonequalized. I think he's absolutely correct. And I think that's something to keep in mind. Those...you reduce someone's taxes without regard to their particular individual ability to pay. It's...it's a characteristic of that sort of an effort. And I would just draw a parallel to what the Legislature did last year with the property tax relief package offered by the Governor and that was done through the community college system; that was another example of a nonequalized property tax relief measure. Doesn't mean they are bad. All I would suggest is that they need to be systematic. I think it needs to be a part of a long-term policy effort, and they need to be sustainable. I think it's...it's...you run into great difficulty if you offer a tax relief program of some sort and then try to backtrack on it. We tried to get down to this level, we're there for a while, things happened, we had to go back up again, generally speaking. If